



INFLUENZA TYPE B

March 27, 2002

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services – Public Health wishes to advise you that we have documented widespread illness due to influenza type B, mostly in school-aged children.

Elementary and middle schools across the county are reporting absenteeism of 15-20%. Symptoms are not always classic for influenza; they have included head ache, sore throat, fatigue, and fever [101*-103*]; cough and runny nose are found in some, but not universally.

Neuraminidase inhibitors [oseltamivir (Tamiflu), zanamivir (Relenza)] are effective for treatment and prophylaxis of influenza types B and A. Indications for use and age appropriateness vary for both medications, so please consult your pharmacy. Amantidine and rimantidine are ineffective against influenza type B.

For questions about influenza or the legally reportable diseases, please call Acute Communicable Disease Control at

213.240.7941 [8-5, M-F] or **213.974.1234** [after hours]

To report one of the legally reportable diseases,

call **888.397.3993** or fax **888.397.3778**